

The Local Record

Random notes from various articles . . .

(The Files for the Local Record Were Not Complete)

Kaskaskia was the oldest town in the state. Mackinaw, now the oldest, was the second town. It was founded in 1823, and the court house was built in 1825, the first in Illinois.

April 21, 1857. There was a heavy snow on the ground, and the bobsleds were used in hauling wood and hay. The season following was almost a total crop failure because of the early frost.

May – June 1869. Rain sent. It rained from early spring and continued until early fall. Many of the farmers gave up in despair. At harvest time much of the hay and grain could not be gathered, and it rotted. There was not tiling or ditching, and water covered a vast area of land on all sides.

April 25, 1882. Fairbury Cornet Band busted.

1888 The Local Record has been founded. It consists of a double sheet, and is issued every Friday by the C. E. Carter Printing Co. The office was in the basement under Parson's Drug Store.

October, 12, 1888. The Dominy – Beach – Bartlett building is being entertained and improved by the painters.

John Kring has been doing a lively business at his sorghum mill, half a mile north of town. He has made 2,200 gallons of sorghum of a very fine quality.

The handsome job of painting and decorating Dr. Lewis's new residence is being done with the famous Sherwin and Williams paints, purchased at Parson's Drug Store.

A corps of painters under the supervision of Rufus Huntoon of Pontiac, have been at work for two or three weeks past, in the elegant residence erected by T. a. Beach which will soon be occupied by Dr. G.C. Lewis and family. The work corresponds splendidly with the modern style of architecture displayed throughout the structure, rendering it one of the handsomest homes in Livingston County. It will be lighted by gas and heated by steam furnace, and will also contain many of the latest conveniences. Mr. Beach is also exchanging the heating apparatus in his own residence for one of the latest improved steam furnaces.

October 19, 1888. C.E. Carter, formerly editor of the Blade, started the Local Record. He had been asked not to, but had refused.

Jerome Odell's house, since its recent remodeling and painting is one of the neatest and most attractive residences in town. The painters have already been working nine weeks, and Jerome thinks he will be in big luck if they get through by spring. The interior is finished in rosewood, cherry and oak, having a surface as smooth as a piano.

The man, who was washing clothes on the street corners last Tuesday and Wednesday, was not paying a bet but trying to sell washing machines.

T.A. Beach's woodshed caught fire Tuesday, and got under pretty good headway before discovered. Dr. Lewis thought he was equal to the task of putting a quietus on the warmth engendered in consequence of the fire, so like a brave fire lady he mounted the ladder that led to the conflict. "T'was rather hard work climbing that ladder, but it was easy work coming down. Doc and the ladder struck equilibrium about the same time. The equilibrium was the ground, and the next day Doc's arm adorned a sling. We understand he has withdrawn his application to become a member of the Fairbury Fire Department.

November 22, 1888. T.A. Beach appreciates big horses and fine cattle, and so with many others this week, he has been wandering through the byways, alleys and promenades of the fat stock show.

The prohibition plea came down Thursday night when the republicans ratified; who did the deed is not known, but a fire was kindled at its base and thus the work was accomplished.

December 7, 1888. Article of mild reproof to those who resent a reporter's questions at the railroad station.

December 21, 1888. Story supplement: A Holiday Salutation to Our Readers.

December 28, 1888. D.A. Fraley was the Doctor's son.

January 18, 1889. Temporary formation change: National News on the front page.

January 25, 1889. The first cutter to be seen on our streets this winter was last Sunday morning, J.E. Lewis being the occupant. J.E. Lewis keeps some first class family rigs, and enjoys using them, and if you get ahead of him in dedicating the first snow storm of the season, you can't lie abed until church time.

February 1, 1889. The new street lamps have arrived and have been tested by practical use. They are a great improvement on the old smoke boxes.

February 8, 1889. T.A. Beach will pound the gong and say "Go" to the jockeys at the next Fair. We are afraid that Tommy is getting to be quite a "sport".

February 15, 1889. John Virgin's office, located on the ground floor of his palatial horse parlors, has become a public reading room for stockmen, horse fanciers, and farmers. Mr. Virgin has arranged a rack around the room, on which may be found almost every farm and stock publication printed. It's an idea; the greatness of which is in harmony with the size of the man whose name is Virgin.

February 22, 1889. "Baldy's Best", a cigar by Conerus for George Eckhart to sell at his railroad restaurant.

March 1, 1889. The Hose Company's dance on the evening of the 22 was not a financial success, the boys coming out \$13.00 behind.

March 8, 1889. T.A. Beach has been circulating a petition for improvements on the Ash Street sewer to benefit the North side of town.

April 5, 1889. (The paper was very cheap and is very brittle and yellow with time.)

Scarlet Fever epidemic. No quarantine laws.

April 26, 1889. The Omish pay the debts of other members if they honestly can't. Each church has sheds for horses in bad weather. They take turns fixing their meals at church. They meet from 9 AM to 3PM when they go home to do their chores, and they go to an evening service. The women kiss in greeting, and often the men do too. They do not go to law, but the complaints are settled in church. They play no part in politics. They have good houses and cattle and good food, giving a Blessing before and after each meal. The Sunday dinner of coffee, bread and butter, is furnished by the church for all the members and their families. None but an elder has the right to baptize. All the services are in German. Some of the children are sent to a private German School.

May 10, 1889. Carter sold to Brydia after seven months as editor of the Local Record. There were over 700 subscribers.

May 17, 1889. Brydia came from the Saunemin Gazette.

May 24, 1889. Carter is going on a farm near Crete, Illinois. He had been secretary of the Agricultural Board.

May 31, 1889. Carter had lived in Fairbury for five years. He was a hustler.

August 2, 1889. They are trying to pass a village law making it illegal for the city to employ anyone not a U. S. citizen or having his first papers.

August 9, 1889. The first perfume that greets the nostrils of the weary traveler as he slips off the train at Fairbury is not a very delightful one. It suggests the thought that about two barrels of lime, used with proper discretion in the vicinity of where the fumes originate, would, in a great measure, lessen the chances of death by Asiatic cholera, of some of Fairbury's citizens.

A couple of Germans living in the east end of town, attempted to arrest a young lad named Adams, whom they accused of breaking window lights out of their homes last Saturday evening. They did not proceed according to the law of the land, but were going to kidnap him and take him home with them by main force. But young Adams had a lusty pair of lungs and made such an outcry that he soon had the whole neighborhood out, and the Germans were made to release the boy. It would be a good idea for some of our Teutonic citizens to study up a little on Blackstone.

September 20, 1889. Circus day did not draw upon the schools as heavily as expected. The faithful pupils were rewarded by having the parade come up especially for their benefit, and by being allowed a special recess in which to see it. The attendance, promptness, and good order of the pupils on that day speak volumes for the character of the Fairbury pupils.

September 22, 1889. About a hundred of our citizens took advantage of the cheap rate to see the Chicago Exposition yesterday.